Jones Used Sex to Manipulate Followers, Ex-Cultists Say

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 24 (AP)— The Rev. Jim Jones ordered the beating of homosexuals, forced men and women to strip in public and had a secretary arrange sexual liaisons with men as well as women, according to articles in two California newspapers today.

The accounts, quoting former followers of Jones, paint the picture of a leader who used sex to manipulate, seduce, blackmail and dominate members of the Peoples Temple.

Jones was found shot to death last Saturday after a ritual of mass suicide and murder at Jonestown, Guyana. Nearly 800 of the cult followers died after drinking poison.

"Jones used to say that the only perfect heterosexual around was him. All of us had to admit that we were homosexuals," Gerald Parks, 45, a former member of the Peoples Temple, was quoted as saying in a copyright article in the San Jose Mercury.

"Then we found out it was him. He was having sex with guys. The guys, they'd brag about it right up front," Parks told the Mercury.

The Mercury quoted former Temple members as saying that on one occasion Jones told his followers to continue hitting a homosexual already beaten bloody and to "kick him where he deserves it."

According to an article in the Los Angeles Times, Jones had a secretary arrange sexual liaisons with men as well as women.

"She would call up and say, 'Father hates to do this, but he has this tremendous urge and could you please,' " said Al Mills, former Peoples Temple membership chairman.

"Everyone had to say they were a homosexual or a lesbian," Mike Cartmell, a former associate minister at the Temple, told the Times. "Jones realized the power of sex in destroying stable family relationships. In some cults you have communal living. In Peoples Temple, Jones made himself the only legitimate object of sexual desire."

Cartmell told the Times that Jones once tried to approach him, but "the phone rang and I fled the room."

Cartmell said he later asked Jones why he had sex in this way.

" 'You have to,' " he said Jones replied. " 'It focuses their interest on you.' "

According to Cartmell, Jones boasted that he would engage in sex up to six hours at a time because "it totally obliterates" the personalities of his partners.

Mills said Jones ordered his followers, many of them once strictly monogamous Christians, to commit homosexual or adulterous acts because they were easier to manipulate or blackmail when they felt guilty.

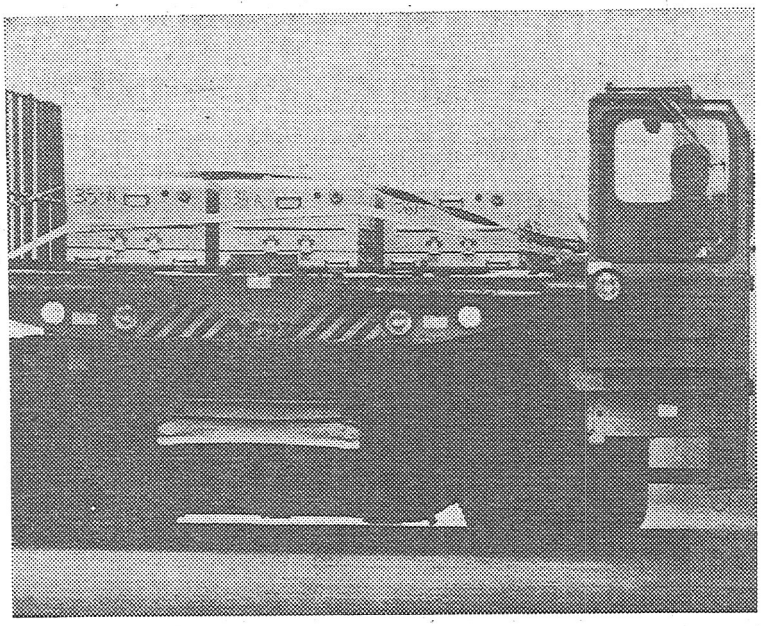
Cartmell also said he believes Jones provided under-age girls to male followers to compromise them.

©1978. The San Francisco Examiner

HUMANITARIAN AWARD—The late cult leader Jim Jones, second from right, received a Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award last January from the Rev. Cecil Williams, center, pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial church. Other recipients were, from left, Bob Gnaizda, of Public Advocates Inc., Mark Lyons of the United Farm Workers and Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter.

Associated Press

Metal containers are stacked three deep as third transport plane is unloaded.



By John McDonnell—The Washington Post

At Dover, Del., Air Force Base, giant flatbed truck carries Guyana caskets.